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Input to History–Social Science Subject Matter Committee, Instructional Quality Commission

Dear Members of the History–Social Science Subject Matter Committee, Instructional Quality Commission

My name is Shakuntala Nitturkar . I am a mother of three American Hindu kids (including one teenager & a 6th grader) living in Irvinie, near Los Angeles in California.

I have been observing public hearings and reviewed the latest draft that has come out a few weeks back. I am particularly keen on seeing the fairness be brought to chapters on Hinduism in 6th and 7th grades in line with the clause that the standards enable all students to become aware and accepting of religious diversity while being allowed to remain secure in any religious beliefs they may already have.

Based on recent submission by so called historians (Lawrence Cohen, Smriti Srinivas, Akhil Gupta) on 10/22 using the names of esteemed universities, I am coming to understanding that biased and external forces are looking to interfere the ongoing Framework review process, in the name of universities. My impression is that they are indirectly threatening to convert an academic process into a battleground with colonial views.

I recognize that the review process will continue to work on the grounds of fairness in line as laid in the standards and Californian law . I trust it will be fair to all cultures including Hinduism. I appreciate your diligence from each of you on on these, and your cognizance of pollution coming from outside forces (trying to corner one specific culture - in this case Hinduism), who may have little interest in fairness to the future generations.

Like thousands of Hindu kids and parents, I look forward to continued refinement of the framework.

Thank you very much.

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Regards,

Shakuntala Nitturkar